

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was visiting veterans at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center with members of the Texas Congressional delegation. I was unavoidably delayed and missed the votes on H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (rollcall 633), and H. Res. 547, the resolution providing for consideration of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall 634).

Although H.R. 980, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act (rollcall 633) passed by a vote of 314–97, and H. Res. 547, the resolution providing for consideration of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2008 (rollcall 634) passed by a vote of 232–178, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcalls 633 and 634.

I would particularly like to express my strong support for H.R. 980, a bill I am proud to have cosponsored. The bill would establish minimum standards for state collective bargaining laws for police officers, firefighters and other public safety officers, including the right to join a union; the right to have their union recognized by their employer; the right to bargain collectively over hours, wages and terms and conditions of employment; a mediation or arbitration process for resolving an impasse in negotiations; and enforcement of contracts through state courts. This legislation would not affect a majority of states because their laws already meet or exceed the minimum standards.

## THE GENEROSITY OF IDAHOANS

### HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2007*

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary example of the American spirit, the ability for us as individuals and as businesses to give back to the community, support our neighbors, and do for ourselves—without relying on government to do for us.

Last week, the crew of the TV show *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* arrived in Middleton, Idaho. The show travels the country and selects a deserving family for a top-to-bottom remodel. In Idaho, the show's producers picked Ryan and Karia Stockdale.

The Stockdales are a loving couple with four children ages 2 to 6. All four children have an

extremely rare disease that attacks their blood, their lungs and kidneys, and their digestive systems. Because of this disorder, all four children are unable to eat food, and have to be fed through a special tube.

Karia became a stay-at-home mom to tend to the children.

To find a cure for his children, Ryan went back to school full-time studying immunology—in addition to working full-time to support his family.

What's more, the Stockdale home had major problems. The house was not insulated. It had a coal-burning furnace and no air conditioning. The ceiling had a hole. The basement leaked. The water and ventilation systems were bad.

The people of Idaho rallied—sending the Extreme Makeover program more than a thousand emails in support of the Stockdales.

But they didn't stop there. In Idaho, our communities and our citizens place high value on the ability of individuals to make a difference, the power of the private sector. We don't sit back and wait for government to do things for us.

So when Extreme Makeover decided to come to Idaho, the citizens and businesses of my state sent nothing short of an army of volunteers to help give the Stockdales a new home. Corey Barton of CBH Homes led the effort, bringing in competing construction crews to work together to build this 4,000 square foot home.

I wish I could name all the companies that contributed to this cause, but I can't. More than 200 companies pitched in—everything from construction equipment and supplies to bags of ice and beverages.

I wish I could name all of the people who volunteered to do a multitude of tasks—from the framing to running electrical and hanging sheetrock. But I can't. More than three thousand volunteers came out. That's three thousand people working together to build one house for one family.

And the volunteers kept coming as the work got dirtier and more grueling and the temperature reached triple-digits. I'm told that despite the heat and the stress of building a large home in four or five days, the volunteer response was the largest a community has ever given to an Extreme Makeover project. These volunteers finished in a week what it would take government months to accomplish.

I was at the job site on Saturday with my wife, Terry, and here's what we saw: we saw the most enthusiastic, engaged, and excited volunteers we have ever seen. They weren't doing it for the fame or glory; they were not doing it to get a few seconds of time on TV. They were not doing it because some government agency told them to. They were doing it because they wanted to. Many had never met the Stockdales. They didn't have to. They just knew there was a family in need and work to be done. It was up to Idahoans to do it.

This is the home that Idahoans built. Their work goes beyond generous. It is a testament to the American spirit: volunteers giving their

time, experience, and a lot of sweat to help make a beautiful home for a beautiful family. This was a true labor of love. Idahoans should be very proud of what they've done.

## TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF KELVIN WASHINGTON

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 18, 2007*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant and a tremendous leader in his community and state. Williamsburg County Sheriff Kelvin Washington officially becomes President of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association on August 1, 2007, a remarkable achievement for this history-making law enforcer.

Kelvin Washington was born in Hemingway, South Carolina and was reared by his maternal grandmother, the late Thewoflar Washington. He graduated from Hemingway High School, and attended South Carolina State University. Kelvin went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from American Intercontinental University. His desire to excel in a law enforcement career led Kelvin to complete the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, the FBI's Carolina Command College, and the National Sheriff's Institute. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University.

In 1990, Kelvin joined the City of Florence Police Department as a patrolman. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming a narcotics agent and an investigator. Just three years later, Kelvin joined the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office as the Chief Investigator. Soon he was tapped as the Chief Deputy. In 1998, only 8 years after his law enforcement career began, Kelvin Washington was appointed Interim-Sheriff after the retirement of former Sheriff Jack McCrea. The following January, Kelvin Washington was elected Williamsburg County Sheriff making South Carolina history. Sheriff Washington was the youngest African American ever to be elected Sheriff in his home state, and he is currently one of the youngest African American Sheriffs in the nation. His effectiveness on the job and his popularity with county residents led to his reelection in 2000 and 2004.

Sheriff Washington is a member of Bethlehem A.M.E. Church in his hometown of Hemingway. He also holds memberships in the Chavis Masonic Lodge No. 446, the Kingstree Rotary Club, the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Officer's Association, and the South Carolina Sheriff's Association. Sheriff Washington still finds the time to serve as a board member for the Williamsburg County Boys and Girls Club and Williamsburg County Vital Aging. In 2002, he was selected as the Williamsburg County Area Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year.

None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without the support of his wife

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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